

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15850 081128Z
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 /012 W
-----012809 091716Z /46
R 081030Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1345

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WATSON

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:CGEN, RP
SUBJECT: FY 79 EA CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 215242 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY AGREEABLE TO OUR PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC APPEARANCES. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT SHE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS BY PUBLIC OF OUR CONSULAR OPERATIONS HERE.
2. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ADDRESS A SELECTED GROUP OF PHILIPPINE MEDIA, GOVERNMENT AND TOURISM REPRESENTATIVES. A SPEECH OF 20 TO 25 MINUTES FOLLOWED BY QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WOULD BE ADVISABLE. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR ADDRESS TO BE GIVEN IN BALLROOM OF ONE OF THE LOCAL HOTELS.
3. FOR WIDER CONSUMPTION WE RECOMMEND A THIRTY MINUTE TV SPECIAL WITH A "MEET THE PRESS" FORMAT. TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY ICA MANILA AND THE SAME GROUND COULD BE COVERED AS GIVEN IN SPEECH.

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4. WHILE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERE, WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HER TAPING A FIFTEEN MINUTE PROGRAM IN ICA STUDIO HERE FOR FUTURE USE BY EMBASSY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHE IS ACQUAINTED WITH STUDIO FACILITIES HERE, HAVING PREVIOUSLY TAPED A PROGRAM.
5. WE WOULD HOPE THAT MS. WATSON WOULD ADDRESS THE

SUBJECT OF OUR IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICIES IN THE LARGER CONTEXT BUT RELATE THEM TO THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM. MANILA IS OUR LARGEST IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUING POST AND THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF THE RELATIVELY FEW COUNTRIES WITH AN OVERSUBSCRIBED NUMERICAL LIMITATION. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE IS A PERCEPTION HERE OF BIAS AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FILIPINOS WHO DESIRE TO IMMIGRATE. OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN ARE RESTRICTIONS ON DOCTORS AND NURSES INTERESTED IN WORKING IN U.S. AND, OF COURSE, THE INEVITABLE PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS, COMPLICATED BY THE OVER-SUBSCRIBED STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE NUMERICAL LIMITATION.

6. AMBASSADOR MURPHY WILL BE IN DEPARTMENT ON CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8 AND HE PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MS. WATSON.

7. IN ADDITION, CONSUL RICHARD CREHAN, CHIEF OF OUR VISA SECTION WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FROM OCTOBER 6 TO OCTOBER 20 ATTENDING THE ADVANCED CONSULAR COURSE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THAT PERIOD TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR MEMBERS OF THE STAFF ANY ASPECTS OF HER APPEARANCES. HE WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE STATISTICS, ETC., AND IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH OUR VISA OPERATIONS AND PROBLEMS. TOUSSAINT

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